

Remarks

Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 7 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-18 are presented for examination.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,771,383) in view of Douglin (U.S. Patent No. 6,619,695) and further in view of Mei (U.S. Patent No. 6,236,831). Applicant submits that the present claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Mei.

Ogaki discloses a mechanism adapted to create multi-page data consisting of image data of a plurality of pages that constitute one document, and to manage the multi-page data in the same stage as single-page data that consists of image data of each page belonging to the document. As a result, an image processing system is realized which can make use of both a single-page file suitable for management or updating of image data performed in units of one page, and a multi-page file suitable for processing of image data performed in units of one document. See Ogaki at Abstract.

Douglin discloses a telecopier cover sheet comprising transparent membrane for legible marking thereon and at least one oppositely disposed membrane section assembled thereagainst and adapted for supporting a document therebetween. The transparent cover sheet allows a person sending the document by telecopier to create a writing that appears thereagainst in the telecopied mode and yet is subsequently erasable. The telecopy document is retained within the oppositely disposed membranes comprising the assembly to therein facilitate the handling and telecopying thereof. See Douglin at Abstract.

Mei discloses a method and apparatus for recycling marking surfaces such as office paper is described. The system scans a marking surface, determines the location of printing on the marking surface and deposits erasing material directly over the printing. Because the distribution of erasing material is confined to the printed areas, the use of erasing material is minimized. The described system can be easily adapted for use in traditional copying systems to recycle paper. See Mei at Abstract.

Claim 1 of the present application recites determining if an input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page and obscuring the first print job information and the first set of end markers the first print job information is determined to be present. Applicant submits that Ogaki, Douglin and Mei each fail to disclose or suggest such features.

Particularly, the references fail to disclose or suggest *determining if an input separator page contains first print job information by identifying a first set of end markers on the input separator page*. Moreover, each reference fails to disclose or suggest obscuring first print job information and first set of end markers the first print job information is determined to be present. Douglin discloses a person having to manually erase writing from a marking pen from transparent plastic. See Douglin at col. 3, ll. 5-28. Applicant submits that such a process is not comparable to obscuring first print job information and a first set of end markers.

Because both Ogaki, Douglin and Wei each fail to disclose or suggest a process of determining if an input separator page contains first print job information indicating use of the input separator page as a first print job page by identifying a first set of end markers on

the input separator page, or obscuring the first print job information and the first set of end markers the first print job information is determined to be present, any combination of Ogaki and Klein would also fail to disclose or suggest such a process. As a result, claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Mei.

Independent claims 7 and 13 include limitations similar to those recited in claim 1. Thus, claims 7 and 13, and their respective dependent claims are also patentable over Ogaki in view of Douglin and Mei for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-3669.

Respectfully submitted,

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